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His Excellency Zhou Wenzhong
Ambassador
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
2300 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20008-1724

Dear Ambassador Zhou:

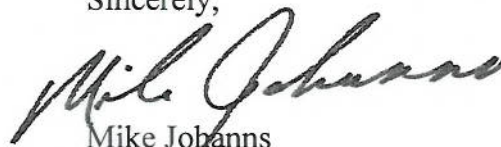
I write to request that the People's Republic of China re-open its market to U.S. pork and pork products.

As you may know, last week the Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) stated in a letter to OIE National Delegates that Influenza A, the influenza outbreak currently causing illness in humans, was not preceded by an outbreak of influenza in swine. Further, the letter pointed out that "swine influenza is not an OIE listed disease and there is currently no justification...for the imposition of trade measures on the importation of pigs or their products."

In the United States, there have been no reports of Influenza A in swine. The virus is not a foodborne illness, but rather is transmitted through human-to-human contact. U.S. pork and pork products are completely safe for consumption. I urge you to base any trade decisions your country makes on science-based, international standards. Doing so would lead China to immediately lift trade restrictions related to Influenza A.

The courtesy of a prompt response would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Mike Johanns
United States Senator

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